



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

March 28, 2011

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name and title.

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

## SACRAMENTO UPDATE

This memorandum contains a status report on the extension of Vehicle License Fee revenues for local public safety programs.

### Status on Vehicle License Fee Revenues

As part of the 2009-10 State Budget Act, Governor Schwarzenegger and the Legislature enacted legislation that shifted the funding of local public safety programs from the State General Fund to the Vehicle License Fee (VLF) rate. The legislation temporarily increased the VLF by 0.65 percent, and directed 0.15 percent to the Local Safety and Protection Account (LSPA). The LSPA provides funding for programs administered by the Sheriff, District Attorney and the Probation Department including: the Citizens' Option for Public Safety Program (COPS), booking fees, California Multi-jurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team and High Technology Theft and Apprehension and Prosecution programs, the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act and Juvenile Probation Camp Funding.

As previously reported to your Board, the temporary VLF rate increase is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2011. **Absent an extension of the existing VLF rate or identification of an alternative revenue source, the County would lose approximately \$135.8 million in funding for the following public safety programs:**

- Juvenile Probation Camp Funding - \$71.2 million;
- Citizens Option for Public Safety Program - \$19.9 million;
- Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act - \$28.9 million;

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- Various public safety program grants - \$14.4 million; and
- Jail Booking Fee Subventions - \$1.4 million.

These potential losses would impact the following County departments:

- The Probation Department indicates that the loss of VLF revenues would result in the closing of up to 12 juvenile camps, the elimination or reduction of several juvenile community-based prevention programs, and the elimination of an estimated 1,022 Probation Department positions.
- The District Attorney's Office indicates that the loss of VLF revenues would equate to approximately \$3.5 million in reduced funding. This would result in a 33.0 percent reduction in attorneys assigned to the Hardcore Gang and Major Narcotics Division and the Elder Abuse Section, which would include 16 deputy district attorney positions and two community prosecutors.
- The Sheriff's Department indicates that the loss of VLF revenues would affect the COPS, Booking Fees, Multi-jurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team and High Technology Theft Apprehension and Prosecution programs.

### **Governor's Realignment Proposal for the Vehicle License Fee**

Governor Brown's FY 2011-12 January Budget included a realignment proposal which proposes to extend the VLF rate increase for an additional five years to fund the shift of various public safety programs from the State to counties. The extension requires a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to place an initiative on the June 2011 Special Election ballot for voter approval. As of March 25, 2011, the Governor has not been able to secure the required number of votes in the Legislature for the ballot initiative, but he remains in negotiations with Republican Leaders.

### **County-Advocacy Legislation Regarding Local Public Safety Funding**

In addition to the Governor's Realignment Proposal, the Legislature is considering other measures to continue funding local public safety programs and provide constitutional protections to counties for programs which would be shifted from the State to counties. Key bills include:

**County-supported AB 66 and ABx1 9 (Chesbro)**, are identical urgency measures, which as introduced on December 13, 2010 would permanently extend the temporary VLF rate increase for local public safety programs. AB 66 is currently awaiting a hearing in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee. ABX1 9 is awaiting assignment to a policy committee.

**County-supported AB 192 (Logue)**, as amended on February 22, 2011, is an urgency measure that would appropriate \$500.0 million from the State General Fund to the Local Safety and Protection Account to fund local public safety programs beginning on July 1, 2011, and each July 1 thereafter, for a period of five years. This measure is awaiting a hearing in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee.

**County-supported ACAX1 2 and SCAX1 1 (the Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2011)**, are identical measures, which would enact a constitutional amendment to provide counties with constitutional protections for programs proposed for realignment and to seek voter approval of a five-year extension for approximately \$11.2 billion in tax revenues. The revenue would be used to help fund the transfer of \$5.9 billion in program responsibilities from the State to counties for various public safety programs including: continuation of existing VLF-funded public safety programs; supervision of low-level offenders; adult parole; high-risk juvenile offenders; court security; CAL FIRE; child welfare; adult protective services; certain mental health programs; and substance abuse treatment services. SCAX1 1 is in the Senate Rules Committee and ACAX1 2 is in the Assembly Budget Committee.

**Consistent with existing Board policy, the Sacramento advocates will continue to work on securing ongoing funding for local public safety programs via a full appropriation from the State General Fund, an extension of the VLF increase, or other viable funding mechanisms.**

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA:MR  
VE:GA:KL:sb

c: All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist  
Local 721  
Coalition of County Unions  
California Contract Cities Association  
Independent Cities Association  
League of California Cities  
City Managers Associations  
Buddy Program Participants